

July 2016

**Q.I was very perturbed at some local suggestions that additional works should be carried out during the implementation of the camping provision. While the request to improve the road shared with farming vehicles is perhaps a desirable outcome as it may cause problems in the future with wide loads forcing visitor cars into the roadside ditch. then that is a matter of budget. The other suggestion made was the road should be reduced in width after that point beside the loch so as to deny access to trailers and prevent park users from launching boats.**

**I find this to be a very worrying development and would seek reassurance that any restriction of access will not be a feature of these management zones.”**

A. The Park Authority is an Access Authority, and as such has a statutory duty to uphold access rights as defined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and further explained in the advisory code the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. These rights generally extend to non-motorised forms of access.

The management of public road access is a matter dealt with by the respective roads authorities, in the case of Strathard this would be a matter for Stirling Council. Vehicular access on privately owned land is a matter for the landowner. The Park Authority is concerned about vehicular access where it causes a danger to the public, damages the natural environment, impacts on land management activity or other people's enjoyment of the National Park. We are looking at how best to accommodate camping provision in sustainable numbers and locations, whilst acknowledging that many visitors arrive by car; this will be taken into account in the design of any provision.

There is no public right to vehicular access, other than on the public road network, and similarly no right to launch by car and trailer a motor boat, in all but the case of Loch Lomond, landowner permission is required to take a motorboat onto an inland loch in Scotland. The Park Authority already provides public launching facilities at Balloch and Milarrochy and encourages the use of non-motorised forms of boat access on our other lochs e.g. kayaking, canoeing and paddle-boarding as can be enjoyed under Scotland's access rights enshrined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

**Q.Can you please tell me what the National Parks Policy is on such restrictions of access?”**

A.The Park Authority has no direct powers to regulated vehicular access other than on its own estate, which is very small. In the case of our own estate we may decide to limit access if it is deemed necessary for the reasons stated above, and as part of a wider set of measures aimed at improving visitor experience and protecting the parks special qualities.